

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04514 131430Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /057 W
-----075982 132102Z /75

R 131330Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5180
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4514

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP LE US IT
SUBJ: POSSIBLE TRIP BY PRESIDENT SARKIS TO ROME

1. DURING MY CALL ON FONMIN BOUTROS SEPTEMBER 12, HE SAID THAT PRESIDENT SARKIS WAS CONSIDERING GOING TO ROME FOR THE CANONIZATION CEREMONY FOR LEBANON'S FIRST SAINT, ST. CHARBEL, ON OCTOBER 9. IF THE PRESIDENT MAKES THE TRIP, HE WOULD GO A DAY EARLY FOR A MEETING WITH THE POPE. BOUTROS EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS TRIP WAS STILL VERY TENTATIVE AND DEPENDED ON THE EVOLUTION OF THE SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON. (BEIRUT'S CHRISTIAN PRESS HAS ALSO BEEN SPECULATING THAT SARKIS MIGHT VISIT ROME).

2. COMMENT: IF SARKIS MAKES THIS TRIP, IT WILL BE HIS FIRST VENTURE AS PRESIDENT OF LEBANON OUTSIDE THE ARAB WORLD AND HIS FIRST ABSENCE FROM LEBANON SINCE HE VISITED SYRIA IN FEBRUARY. THE FACT THAT HE IS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING IT, DESPITE THE PERILOUS SECURITY SITUATION HERE, SUGGESTS THAT HE AND HIS ADVISORS FEEL THAT IT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR HIM TO ESTABLISH HIS CREDENTIALS AS A MARONITE AND REINFORCE HIS PRESTIGE IN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN LEBANON.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BEIRUT04514
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770332-0086
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770971/aaaacidk.tel
Line Count: 55
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 934f0548-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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SAS ID: 1300641
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE TRIP BY PRESIDENT SARKIS TO ROME
TAGS: PDIP, OVIP, LE, US, IT, (SARKIS, ELIAS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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